

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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P R 110920Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3424

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0582

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, SOPN, ET

SUBJECT: TELEVISION NEWSMAN VISITS ERITREA

1. BRITISH ITV JOURNALIST JONATHAN DIMBLEBY APPEARED IN ASMARA FROM ADDIS ON JULY 10 TO DO TV STORY ON ERITREA. HE IS FIRST MEDIA REP TO BE ALLOWED HERE SINCE EMERGENCY BEGAN ON JAN 31, ALTHOUGH IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THREE NEWSMEN DID COME TO ASMARA WITHOUT PERMISSION IN FEBRUARY. HE SAID DIRG HAD CLEARED HIS VISIT AT THIS TIME IN EFFORT SEE THAT PUBLICITY BE GIVEN NOW TO ACTUALITY OF SITUATION IN ERITREA.

2. DIMBLEBY INTERVIEWED NUMEROUS LOCAL FIGURES INCLUDING BG GETACHEW, WHO URGED HIM TO TRAVEL TO KEREN, UNDER MILITARY ESCORT, TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THAT THE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY IS IN CONTROL. HE TOLD DIMBLEBY, HOWEVER, THAT HE MIGHT WELL SEE SOME "BANDITS" AND MIGHT EVEN BE FIRED ON. (SIZEABLE MILITARY ACTION PRESENTLY SUPPOSED TO BE UNDER WAY BETWEEN ASMARA AND KEREN.) DIMBLEBY DRIVING TO KEREN TODAY, JULY 11.

3. I DISCUSSED ERITREAN SITUATION WITH DIMBLEBY ON BACKGROUND. HE AGREED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME AFTER HIS RETURN FROM KEREN TODAY. WILL REPORT FURTHER ON THIS. SUGGEST EMBASSY DEBRIEF HIM ON HIS RETURN TO ADDIS AND SEEK OBTAIN COPY TV SCRIPT HE EVENTUALLY PRODUCES. FILM FOOTAGE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTING IF OBTAINABLE.

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Message Attributes

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